

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/028,423

Examiner

Cheryl M. Shechtman

Applicant(s)

IBUKI ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/10/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22 and 45-67.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/10/07
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


WILSON LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the RCE filed January 12, 2007. Claims 1-22 and 45-67 are pending. Claims 1, 45, and 67 are amended. Claims 23-44 have been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

2. Referring to the 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection of claims 1-22 and 45-67, Applicant's amendment to the claims is acknowledged. As such, the 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection of the claims is withdrawn.

3. Applicant's arguments, see pages 13-17 of Arguments and Remarks section, filed August 2, 2007, with respect to claims 1-22 and 45-67 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 USC 103(a) rejections of claims 1-22 and 45-67 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-22 and 45-67 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Referring to claim 1, Bessho discloses a query-and-response processing method for receiving a search request concerning a query input by a user and searching a database to present search results to the user, the method comprising: analyzing a search request sentence provided by said user using syntactic parsing; and analyzing an intention of the query based on the analyzed search request sentence.

Neither, Bessho taken either alone or in obvious combination discloses all of the claimed subject matter specifically including: *determining whether said search request sentence includes an interrogative pronoun; extracting as a topic of query, either a top level syntactic hierarchy of said search request sentence, in a case said search request sentence does not include an interrogative pronoun, or a component qualified by an interrogative pronoun, in a case said search request sentence includes the interrogative pronoun; generating search criteria based on said topic of query extracted in said analyzing the intention of query; searching said database using said generated search criteria and retrieving, as search results, information that are intended for said topic of query; determining an output format of search results based on said topic of the query without further input by the user; and outputting said search results that are selected items to be presented to the user.*

Also, there is no motivation to combine any of the prior art of record to meet these limitations. It is for these reasons that applicant's invention defines over the prior art of record.

Claims 45 and 67 are also allowable for the same reasons stated with respect to claim 1 above.

Claims 2-22 and 46-66 depend from claims 1 and 45 respectively and are therefore also allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art or art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents or publications are cited with respect to keyword, sentence or topic extraction from queries including interrogative queries and conducting searches using the extracted keywords, sentences or topics:

- US PGPub 2004/0049499 A1 by Nomoto et al;
- US PGPub 2005/0228639 A1 by Abe et al;
- US PGPub 2007/0130112 A1 by Lin.


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl M Shechtman who can be reached on (571) 272-4018. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CMS
September 26, 2007



WILSON LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER